

Old Baldwin House  
Norwichtown, Connecticut  
New London Co.

HABS No. 3-19  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District #3

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Harold H. Davis, District Officer  
29 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Conn.

Old Baldwin House  
Norwichtown, Connecticut

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First record of grant of land on which this house stands is dated 1674 and is given to Thomas Baldwin. In 1727 it was deeded to his son, Thomas, and in 1733 to Ebenezer Baldwin which included the land in above and also a rectangle, 5 by 16 rods.

The first record which mentions the house occurs January 9, 1778 when Ebenzer Baldwin conveys to Jacob Witter two pieces of land "the first of half an acre where my dwelling house now stands". Therefore, the house was built between 1733, when the land was conveyed to Ebenezer, and 1778 when it was conveyed to Witter.

William H. Shields, a lawyer in Norwich, who is married to one of the late owners, had searched all available sources for more definite date of erection but without results; he places the date around 1750.

Later changes of ownership: To Joseph Hosner, 1800; David C. Dodg, 1811; Sarah Hazard, 1815; Abial Sherman, 1845; John J. O'Connel, 1919; Mary O'Connel, 1922. Now owned by F. Kingsbury Curtiss, a lawyer in New York City.

Since the house is to be moved by Mr. Curtiss from Norwich, all chimneys, fireplaces and plaster have been removed at time of measuring. ~~Now~~ The location of fireplaces were definitely found, and O'Connel family

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advised that the kitchen had Dutch ovens, which are indicated on the drawings.

All framing is oak pinned together; all nails where used are hand-wrought. Floors are wide oak from twelve to sixteen inches wide. Panelling is in fine state of preservation, and the stair balustrade is executed in walnut.

Sources: Mr. Hibbard R. Norman, Lawyer of Norwich, who searched titles for present owner.

Compiled by Arthur M. Thompson

Approved: Harold H. Cairns

Reviewed 1/36, H.C.F.